

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-26. (cancelled)

27. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of~~ In a computer network including a client computer and a central computer, a method of receiving an order of a laboratory test of a biological specimen for a patient comprising the steps of:

receiving, at the central computer, at least one query transmitted through the network from the client computer, the at least one query including a laboratory test request and patient, billing, and diagnosis information corresponding to the requested laboratory test;

transmitting information through the network from the central computer to the client computer, the information including data for generating a test requisition and a label for use with the biological specimen; and

analyzing the at least one query at the central computer to verify that the requested laboratory test is payable by a responsible party identified in the billing information.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein said receiving step comprises receiving a diagnosis code and a laboratory test code as a part of the at least one query and said analyzing step comprises searching a code database for correspondence between the diagnosis code and the laboratory test code.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein said analyzing step comprises comparing an identified diagnosis and the requested laboratory test to a maximum value to determine whether a maximum number of tests has been exceeded for the identified diagnosis.

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of transmitting a notification through the network from the central computer to the client computer if the requested laboratory test is not payable by the identified responsible party for an identified diagnosis.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising the step of requesting an indication that the patient is responsible for payment in response to the notification.

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of transmitting a request for additional diagnosis information through the network from the central computer to the client computer if the requested laboratory test is not payable by the identified responsible party for an identified diagnosis.

33–60. (cancelled)

61. (currently amended) ~~The computer readable medium of claim 60, wherein the computer program instructions further cause the central computer to perform the step of~~ A computer readable medium including computer program instructions that cause a central computer, in a computer network including at least one client computer and the central computer, to perform a method of receiving an order of a laboratory test of a biological specimen for a patient, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving at least one query transmitted through the network from the client computer, the at least one query including a laboratory test request and patient, billing, and diagnosis information corresponding to the requested laboratory test;

transmitting information through the network to the at least one client computer, the information including data for generating a test requisition and a label for use with the biological specimen; and

analyzing the at least one query to verify that the requested laboratory test is payable by a responsible party identified in the billing information.

62. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 61, wherein the computer program instructions further cause the central computer to perform the step of transmitting a request for additional diagnosis information through the network to the client computer if the requested laboratory test is not payable by the identified responsible party for an identified diagnosis.

63. (cancelled)